

**ST. MARY'S COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING
Tuesday, November 8, 2011**

Present: Commissioner President Francis Jack Russell
Commissioner Lawrence D. Jarboe
Commissioner Cynthia L. Jones
Commissioner Daniel L. Morris
Commissioner Todd B. Morgan
John Savich, County Administrator
Sharon Ferris (Recorder)

CALL TO ORDER

Commissioner President Russell called the business meeting to order at 9:02 am in the Chesapeake Building meeting room, Governmental Center.

ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO AGENDA

Commissioner Russell noted due to illness the Commendation for Tony Malaspina will not be presented today.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Jarboe moved, seconded by Commissioner Morgan, to adopt the minutes of November 1, 2011, as amended. Motion carried 5-0.

A PROCLAMATION WAS PRESENTED FOR AMERICA RECYCLES WEEK

COMMENDATIONS WERE PRESENTED TO THE DEPT. OF PUBLIC WORKS AND DEPT. OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY FOR OUTSTANDING PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSIVENESS DURING HURRICANE IRENE

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

1. Draft Agenda for November 15 and 22, 2011.

2. County Administrator (*John Savich*)

Mr. Savich reported that Fitch Ratings affirmed the AA+ rating on St. Mary's County's approximately \$100M outstanding unlimited tax GO bonds. Key drivers to obtaining this rating are low debt burden with rapid amortization, healthy reserves, and budgetary flexibility. The county has carefully managed its capital program spending and issuance of debt, leading to low overall debt levels at \$1,172 per capita and 1.0% of market value. Long term liabilities related to employment benefits are not expected to pressure future operations.

3. Department of Public Works and Transportation (*George Erichsen, Director*)

Commissioner Morris moved, seconded by Commissioner Jarboe, to approve and authorize Commissioner President Russell to execute the budget amendment transferring funds in the amount of \$24,823 from the FIN12 Capital Reserve to the Critical Building Maintenance and Repair project PF-0804 for insurance reimbursements received. Motion carried 5-0.

Commissioner Jones moved, seconded by Commissioner Morgan, to approve and authorize Commissioner Russell to sign:

a. Public Works Agreement Addendum guaranteeing the construction of the roads in the Ben Oaks Subdivision, Phases 1, 2, 3 & 4, Located in the 5th Election District with an Expiration Date of November 1, 2012.

b. Public Works Agreement Addendum guaranteeing the construction of the roads in the Leonardtown Farms Subdivision, Section 1, Located in the 3rd Election District, with an Expiration Date of November 1, 2012. Motion carried 5-0.

4. Department of Public Safety and Information Technology (*Bob Kelly, Director*)

Commissioner Jarboe moved, seconded by Commissioner Morris, to approve and authorize Commissioner President Russell to execute the Emergency Medical Dispatch Training Grant award, Project MD1256, from the Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services System on behalf of the Department of Public Safety for training Communication Specialists in the amount of \$1,490, and the related budget amendment to decrease the project budget by \$1,010. Motion carried 5-0.

5. Sheriff's Office (*Sgt. Harold Young; Erin Shoemaker, Fiscal Manager*)

Commissioner Morris moved, seconded by Commissioner Morgan, to authorize the Sheriff to execute the Maryland Highway Safety Office Grant for Sobriety Checkpoints and DUI Patrols award in the amount of \$12,600 from the Maryland State Highway and approve and authorize Commissioner President Russell to

execute the budget amendment to increase the project by \$12,600. Motion carried 5-0.

Commissioner Jones moved, seconded by Commissioner Jarboe, to authorize the Sheriff to execute the Maryland Highway Safety Office Grant for Smooth Operator Waves and Aggressive Enforcement award in the amount of \$6,550 from the Maryland State Highway and approve and authorize Commissioner President Russell to execute the budget amendment to increase the project by \$6,550. Motion carried 5-0.

6. Department of Economic and Community Development (*Bob Schaller, Director; Carolyn Laray, Tourism Manager*)

Commissioner Morgan moved, seconded by Commissioner Morris, to approve and authorize Commissioner President to execute the 2011 Mini-Grant award agreement, Project #MD1269, from the Southern Maryland Heritage Area Consortium on behalf of the Department of Economic and Community Development Tourism Division in the amount of \$1,000 for exhibit development. Motion carried 5-0.

Commissioner Jones moved, seconded by Commissioner Morris, to approve and authorize Commissioner President Russell to execute the 2011 Mini-Grant award agreement, Project #MD1268, from the Southern Maryland Heritage Area Consortium on behalf of the Department of Economic and Community Development Tourism Division in the amount of \$1,000 for exhibit enhancements. Motion carried 5-0.

7. Department of Finance (*Jeannett Cudmore, Deputy Finance Director*)

Commissioner Morgan moved, seconded by Commissioner Morris, to approve and authorize Commissioner President Russell to execute the budget amendment realigning \$234,479 of the BOCC Emergency Appropriations Reserve set aside for Hurricane Irene, to cover the Emergency payroll costs of Department/Elected Official accounts on pay dates 9/9, 9/23 & 10/7/ 2011. Motion carried 5-0.

DEPT. OF RECREATION AND PARKS: REPORT ON ELMS BEACH AND MYRTLE POINT PARK ENTRANCE FEES FOR 2011 SEASON

Present: Phil Rollins, Director, Dept. of Recreation and Parks
David Guyther, Parks Manager, Dept. of Recreation and Parks

Mr. Rollins reported that the decision to charge an Entrance Fee at Elms Beach and Myrtle Point Park, to alleviate the number of vehicles entering the park and prevent overcrowding and unsafe situations is considered a success. St. Mary's County residents were charged \$5 per vehicle per day, non-county residents \$10 per vehicle per day, and \$15 per day for non-resident vans. County residents were also allowed to purchase a season pass for \$20. These fees were assessed on weekends from Memorial Day to Labor Day. Approximately 10,000 individuals visited over the 15 weekends with 1,860 County vehicles and 1,223 non-county vehicles paying to enter. Staff is recommending the fee policy, with a few modifications, be continued at Elms Beach and Myrtle Point Park and will be bringing it forward for a vote in the near future.

Commissioner Jarboe said he disagrees with charging St. Mary's County residents for access to public beaches.

Commissioner Morris suggested allowing St. Mary's County seniors to enter the parks without paying a fee.

COMMISSIONER'S TIME

The Commissioners highlighted events attended over the past week.

RECESS/COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE TIME

MARYLAND ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES (MACO) UPDATE

Present: Ken Ulman, President, Maryland Association of Counties

Mr. Ulman provided an update on Legislative Proposals MACo is addressing on behalf of the counties in the state. MACo is urging state policy makers to resist state actions that will compromise county budgets and local services, to protect state support for these essential local services, and to take other actions to ease financial burdens resulting from prior cost shifts and aid cutbacks. Budgetary items discussed included teacher's pensions, restoration of 30% highway user funds to the counties, and gas tax increases. MACo is also advocating for the counties on land use controls. PlanMaryland is of great concern because it appears the state is trying to implement a plan of one-size-fits-all, although the smaller rural counties have different issues and needs than the larger ones. Also woven into the Plan are septic system requirements that could have significant impact on rural counties. Most counties feel land use controls are best left in the hands of local governments as they best understand the needs of their citizens. Counties are asking for more detail and more collaboration between the state and local governments before imposing a Plan that could potentially have a devastating affect on smaller counties. Mr. Ulman said he fears the goal is to get the Plan adopted before the legislature convenes.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Russell closed the Board of County Commissioners meeting at approximately 12:05 pm.

Minutes Approved by the Board of County Commissioners on _____

Sharon Ferris, Senior Administrative Coordinator (Recorder)